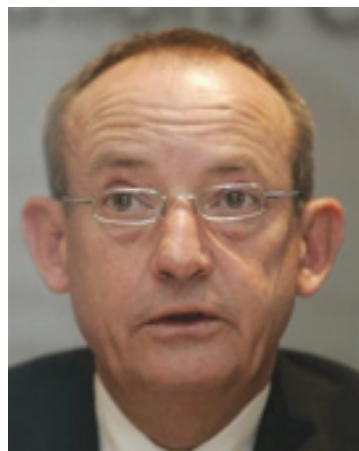


INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

DE BOER RESIGNS



In this Nov. 17, 2008 file photo, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer talks to journalists in Bonn, Germany. De Boer said Thursday Feb. 18, 2010, that he is resigning after nearly four years. His resignation takes effect on July 1, five months before 193 nations are due to reconvene in Mexico for another attempt to reach a worldwide agreement on controlling greenhouse gases

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS

STERLING RUN



Julia Mancuso, of the United States, acknowledges the crowd after completing the downhill portion of the Women's Super Combined event at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

Read more on Page A12

Price of a barrel of petroleum

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U.S. Marine Pfc. Elias Prado of Brentwood, NY and from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment takes cover from the dust of a helicopter taking off from a forward operating campsite in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Thursday Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

Afghan Taliban chiefs arrested in Pakistani sweeps

DEB RIECHMANN
MUNIR AMHAD

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — Pakistani authorities, aided by U.S. intelligence, have apprehended more Afghan Taliban chiefs following the capture of the movement's No. 2 figure — arrests that together represent the biggest blow to the insurgents since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001. The arrests of more than a dozen Taliban leaders, including known associates of Osama bin Laden, came as militants fought to keep a grip on their southern stronghold of Marjah. Hundreds of militants were holding out against a six-day-old assault by 15,000 U.S., NATO and Afghan troops.

Continued on Page 7



In this photo provided by Trey Jones, smoke billows from a seven-story building in Austin, Texas after a small private plane crashed into it Thursday Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

Official: Plane crash pilot left anti-tax Web note

JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A software engineer furious with the U.S. tax agency plowed his small plane into an office building housing nearly 200 federal tax employees on Thursday, officials said, setting off a raging fire that sent workers fleeing as thick plumes of black smoke poured into the air.

The pilot was presumed dead and at least one person who worked in the building was unaccounted for.

A U.S. law official identified the pilot as Joseph Stack — whose home was set on

fire just before the crash — and said investigators were looking at an anti-government message on the Web linked to him. The Web site outlines problems with the Internal Revenue Service and says violence "is the only answer." Federal law enforcement

officials have said they were investigating whether the pilot slammed into the Austin building on purpose in an effort to blow up IRS offices. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Continued on Page 5

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Dalai Lama gets upbeat _ but quiet _ Obama welcome



FOSTER KLUG
JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama personally welcomed the Dalai Lama to the White House Thursday and lauded his goals for the Tibetan people, but he kept their get-together off-camera and low-key in an attempt to avoid inflaming tensions with China. At the risk of angering Beijing,

Obama did tell the exiled spiritual leader that he backs the preservation of Tibet's culture and supports human rights for its people. He also gave encouragement to the Dalai Lama's request for talks with the Chinese government. Meetings between the Dalai Lama and U.S. presidents became standard fare under former President George H.W. Bush nearly 20 years ago. But the choreography is

always delicate and closely watched because of China's sensitivity.

Revered in much of the world, the Dalai Lama is seen by Beijing as a separatist seeking to overthrow Chinese rule of Tibet. Though he says that is untrue, China regards any official foreign leader's contact with the Buddhist monk as an infringement on its sovereignty over the mountainous region and as a particularly unwelcome snub. China had urged Obama not to meet with the Dalai Lama. China is a rising global rival for the U.S. and a hoped-for partner. So concern about reprisals, in the form of reduced cooperation with Washington or other punitive steps, has led American presidents, including Obama, to tread carefully.

There was no welcome fanfare on Thursday, nor a public appearance with the president. The White House released only a single official picture, rather than allow independent photographers and reporters to see the two men together. An official photograph was also the only release after the monk met later with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham

Clinton. This from a president who promised — and in some other ways has delivered — unprecedented transparency in his White House.

The Dalai Lama did meet with reporters outside the White House, playfully tossing a bit of snow at them and declaring himself “very happy” with the visit, and had a short news conference at his hotel.

There, he chided China for what he called its “childish” and “limited” approach to Tibetan efforts for greater rights. He said he expected a negative Chinese reaction to his meeting with Obama.

George H.W. Bush allowed no photos of his 1991 talks with the Dalai Lama. Bill Clinton avoided formal sessions altogether, favoring drop-bys into the Dalai Lama's other meetings. George W. Bush kept his meetings under wraps, too — though in 2007, he broke with tradition and appeared in public with the Dalai Lama to present him with the Congressional Gold Medal, at the Capitol.

Everything about Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama was muted.

“The optics of this thing are incredibly important to the Chinese,” said Michael Green, George W. Bush's senior Asia adviser.

So Obama sat down with his fellow Nobel laureate in the Map Room instead of the Oval Office — a decidedly lower status in the White House venue pecking order. Even the White House description of the talks was done on paper. The timing was a concession, too, as Obama declined to see the Dalai Lama during his Washington stay in October because it would have come before the president's November China visit.

“The president stated his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural and linguistic identity and the protection of human rights for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China,” White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said after the private meeting that lasted for more than an hour.

Obama's handling of the Dalai Lama visit has concerned some

who watched Obama seek the moral high ground on human rights during his campaign and early presidency.

Even more, to a public worried about the loss of U.S. jobs and global influence to China, the deference could come across as bending to Beijing's priorities. Similar questions arose during Obama's Asia trip, when some analysts concluded that the president gave much to China and got little back.

Obama, however, prides himself on pragmatism.

He believes China's help is the linchpin for several difficult and consequential global problems, from nuclear standoffs in Iran and North Korea to international agreement on fighting climate change.

Further, while U.S.-Chinese relations have been strained for years over currency and military disputes and other issues, Beijing's rapid growth of late has the two powerhouses moving closer to equals. With the Chinese government holding nearly \$800 billion of federal U.S. debt, Beijing has extraordinary leverage in the relationship. Most recently, the Obama administration's approval of a multibillion-dollar arms sale to Taiwan, the self-governing democratic island that Beijing claims as its own, has raised tensions.

For the Dalai Lama, who fled his homeland to India in 1959 during a failed uprising eight years after Chinese troops took over Tibet, the visit — whether private or not — was a boon.

His envoy, Lodi Gyari, said Tibetans feeling marginalized by China would get encouragement from the session. Green said just the “fact that they spend time together in an intimate setting means everything for the Tibetan cause.”

Speaking to reporters on the White House driveway, the Dalai Lama said he spoke to the president about the promotion of human values, religious harmony, a greater leadership role for women around the world and the concerns of the Tibetan people, and that Obama was “very much supportive.”

Flight diverted to Salt Lake after bomb threat

JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An airliner that was diverted mid-flight because of a bomb threat was being scoured by investigators at Salt Lake City International Airport on Thursday.

Airport spokeswoman Barbara Gann said a flight attendant found a note while the 757 was en route from Denver to San Francisco and turned it over to the pilot.

“The note was threatening enough for the pilot to feel like he should divert,” Gann said.

Gann said the passengers and crew were taken to the international terminal, where the FBI interviewed passengers while trying to figure out the note's origin.

Passengers said the pilot announced there was a credible threat and that the flight would be landing in Salt Lake City

shortly.

“It was surreal. ‘This can't be happening,’ “ said Mary Beth Winski of Durango, Colorado.

Winski, 65, and her 66-year-old husband, Bob, said there was no panic and that the flight landed about 12 minutes later.

The Winskis said they were asked to give their IDs to FBI agents before getting off the plane, then were bused to the airport's international terminal where they were asked whether they had seen anything suspicious before the note was found in the plane's galley.

The couple said United told them they would be boarding the same plane in late afternoon to finish their flight to California, where they were headed to see friends and family. United Airlines spokeswoman Jean Medina said 168 passengers and six crew were on the flight. □

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In this June 4, 2009 file photo, former New York City police Commissioner Bernard Kerik stands outside the Federal Court in Washington. Kerik, who pleaded guilty in November 2009 to eight felonies, including lying to the White House while being considered for chief of Homeland Security, was sentenced to four years in federal prison Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

JIM FITZGERALD

Associated Press Writer

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP)—Former New York City police Commissioner Bernard Kerik, who was hailed as a hero after the Sept. 11 terror attacks and nearly became chief of Homeland Security, was sentenced Thursday to four years in federal prison. Kerik, a protege of former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, pleaded guilty in November to eight felonies, including tax fraud and lying to the White House while being vetted for the Homeland Security post in 2004.

District Judge Stephen Robinson said Kerik, 54, made “a conscious decision to essentially lie to the President of the United States to get a Cabinet position.”

Robinson went well beyond federal sentencing guidelines, which suggested 27 to 33 months.

He said the guidelines do not take into account “the almost operatic proportions of this case.”

The judge said that after 9/11, Kerik in many ways acted in the “highest tradition of a public servant.”

“The fact that Mr. Kerik would use that event for personal gain and aggrandizement is a

dark place in the soul for me,” Robinson said.

Robinson said some of the crimes were committed while Kerik was “the chief law enforcement officer for the biggest and grandest city this nation has.”

“It is a very sad day when the former commissioner of the greatest police department in the world is sentenced to prison for base criminal conduct,” U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said.

Kerik told the judge he had “become a better person.”

“I know I must be punished,”

he said before being sentenced. “I only ask that you allow me to return to my wife and two little girls as soon as possible.” His daughters are 7 and 9 years old.

When the four-year sentence was imposed, Kerik stared straight ahead, showing no emotion.

Kerik had been free on bond and under house arrest since pleading guilty. Prosecutors asked that he be sent straight to jail on Thursday, but the judge allowed him to return home while a prison is selected for him and to surrender voluntarily on May 17. The conditions of his release, including wearing an electronic monitoring device, continue.

Kerik spent three weeks in jail last fall when Robinson said he released secret pretrial information that could influence a jury pool. While in jail, Kerik voluntarily spent 10 days in the psychiatric

ward for observation because of stress. Doctors concluded he did not need mental care.

As Kerik left the courthouse Thursday for his home in New Jersey, he read a statement apologizing to the nation and hoping that history will judge

him “for 30 years of service I’ve given to the country and the city of New York.”

Kerik had already been ordered to pay \$188,000 in restitution and to pay past-due taxes and penalties on six years of tax returns. □

Ex-NYC police boss gets 4 years in prison



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Excited GOP: Energy on the right, divisions within



Former Vice President Dick Cheney waves as he walks onstage before addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

LIZ SIDOTI

AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservatives seem more fired up than they've been in years, rallying against U.S. President Barack Obama. But energy alone won't herald a Republican revolution, and the excitement pulsing through the party base masks the disputes and divisions ahead of critical midterm elections.

This year's political environment certainly seems unfriendly for the Democrats who control the White

House and Congress, and Republicans are poised for big electoral gains following recent statewide victories in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia. Yet, fights within the party could hinder Republican prospects come November. So could the lack of both a leader and a message other than anti-Obama.

"I think 2010 is going to be a phenomenal year for the conservative cause, and I think Barack Obama is a one-term president," former Vice President Dick

Cheney declared Thursday, making a surprise appearance at an annual gathering of conservatives and earning a raucous reception.

Along with the right wing's new fervor, the Republican Party's struggle to find a unified voice was clear from the start of the annual three-day Conservative Political Action Conference — both in the speaker whom organizers chose to deliver the keynote address but also in what he had to say.

"America already has a Democrat Party. It doesn't need two Democrat parties," said Marco Rubio, suggesting that Republicans who don't adhere to certain principles — namely his U.S. Senate primary opponent Charlie Crist in Florida — are no different from Democrats.

Rubio added: "People want leaders who will come here ... and stand up to this big-government agenda, not be co-opted by it."

In the Senate race that typifies the Republican Party's identity crisis, Rubio is backed by grass-roots groups in his bid against Crist, the establishment-favored governor once considered a shoo-in for the nomination. Given a national platform, Rubio gave a speech that contained several criticisms of Crist, though not by name, and that was met with much enthusiasm.

Such bitterly contested primaries underscore the short-term and long-term challenges facing Republicans. "There is still a struggle within the Republican Party over who we are and what we stand for," acknowledged Sen. Jim DeMint.

DeMint then took on Republican senators he believes don't fight for individual liberty, smaller government and lower spending, telling the crowd: "It's a fight between those who take their constitutional oath seriously and those who don't."

"I would rather have 30 Marco Rubios in the Senate than 60 Arlen Specters," DeMint added, referring to the moderate Republican-turned-Democrat.

The problems don't end at such squabbles.

Republicans have no unifying leader like former President Ronald Reagan. There are many big voices in the mix, including TV's Glenn Beck and 2008 vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin. But there's no unifying message like the Contract with America that was credited with helping the Republican Party take over Congress in 1994.

Also, antiestablishment "tea party" coalitions — largely made up of people with conservative and libertarian views — aren't pledging allegiance to the Republican

Party. But Republican chairman Michael Steele is trying to bring them into the fold; he recently held an hours-long meeting with several "tea party" leaders.

"Let's say to the Republicans: 'Will you show us you know how to be you?'" said Dick Armey, the former House majority leader who has seemed to take on the de facto "tea party" leader role — even as he insists he doesn't want it. "They must come to us and show they're worthy of our loyalty. We don't come to them."

Longtime Republican conservative leaders, meanwhile, are doing their own thing. They updated a statement this week defining the movement's principles, saying: "We need a restatement of constitutional conservatism grounded in the priceless principle of ordered liberty articulated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

It's clear that one thing the Republican Party has going for it — perhaps the biggest thing — is an awakened conservative base that's taking on Obama at every turn. It's a shift from recent years, when the party's right wing was depressed during George W. Bush's second term and Republican Party nominee John McCain's candidacy. The senator never was a darling of the right. □



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PLANE CRASH

Continued from Front Page

"Violence not only is the answer, it is the only answer," the long note on Stack's Web site reads, citing past problems with the tax-collecting agency.

"I saw it written once that the definition of insanity is repeating the same process over and over and expecting the outcome to suddenly be different. I am finally ready to stop this insanity. Well, Mr. Big Brother IRS man, let's try something different; take my pound of flesh and sleep well," the note, dated Thursday, reads.

At least one person who worked in the building was unaccounted for and two people were hospitalized, said Austin Fire Department Division Chief Dawn Clopton. She did not have any information about the pilot. About 190 IRS employees work in the building, and IRS spokesman Richard C. Sanford the agency was trying to account for all of its workers.

After the plane crashed into the building, flames shot out, windows exploded and workers scrambled to safety. Thick smoke billowed out of the second and third stories hours later as fire crews battled the blaze.

"The ceiling caved in and windows blew in. We got up and ran," said Peggy Walker, an IRS revenue officer who was sitting at her desk in the building when the plane crashed.

Andrew Jacobson was on the second floor when he heard a "big whoomp" and then a second explosion. He also thought a bomb exploded.

"When I went to look out the window I saw wreckage, wheels and everything. That's when I realized it was a plane," said Jacobson, whose bloody hands were bandaged.

Jacobson, also an IRS revenue officer, said about six people couldn't use the stairwell because of smoke and debris. He found metal bar to bust a window so the group could crawl out on a concrete ledge where they were rescued by firefighters.

Earlier Thursday, about five miles (eight kilometers) from the crash site, Stack's \$232,000 home was engulfed in flames. Two law enforcement officials said Stack had apparently set fire to his home before the crash.

The roof of Stack's red brick home on a tree-lined street in a middle-class neighborhood was mostly caved in, and the home's windows were blown out.

The garage doors were open and a big pile of debris was inside.

Elbert Hutchins, who lives one house away, said a woman and her teenage daughter drove up to the house before firefighters arrived.

"They both were very, very distraught," said Hutchins, a retiree who said he didn't know the family well. "That's our house!" they cried "That's our house!"

Red Cross spokeswoman Marty McKellips said the agency was treating two people who live in the house. She said they would not be commenting.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford said the pilot took off from nearby Georgetown but didn't file a flight plan. FAA records show that a Piper PA-28 Cherokee with the same tail number as the plane that flew into the building is registered to Joseph A. Stack.

Those who saw the plane before it slammed into the building were stunned to see it flying so low.

"It was insane," said Matt Farney, 39, who was in the parking lot of a nearby Home Depot. "It didn't look like he was out of control or anything."

Reginaldo Tiul-Tiul, a dishwasher at the nearby Sushi Sake Japanese Cuisine, said he had just gotten off a bus and was waiting to go into work when he saw the plane crash.

"I looked at my co-worker and said, 'Why is that plane so low?'" Tiul-Tiul, 30, said in Spanish. "It went straight for the building."

Sitting at her desk in another building about a half-mile from the crash, Michelle

Santibanez said she felt vibrations. She and her co-workers ran to the windows, where they saw a scene that reminded them of the Sept. 11, 2001 U.S. terror attacks, she said.

"It was the same kind of scenario with window panels falling out and desks falling out and paperwork flying," said Santibanez, an accountant.

The National Transportation Safety Board said an investigator from the board's Dallas office has been dispatched to the scene of the crash. The White House also said President Barack Obama was briefed about the crash.

As a precaution, the Colorado-based North American Aerospace Defense Command launched two F-16 aircraft from Houston's Ellington Field, and is conducting an air patrol over the crash area.



Firefighters work on a blaze at a house listed as belonging to Joseph Stack in North Austin, Texas on Thursday Feb. 18, 2010. Stack crashed his small plane into an office building that houses federal tax employees on Thursday, setting off a raging fire. Authorities in Austin would not comment on the house fire.

Associated Press

According to California Secretary of State records, Stack had a troubled business history, twice starting software companies in California that ultimately were suspended by the state's Franchise Tax Board.

In 1985, he incorporated

Prowess Engineering Inc. in Corona. It was suspended two years later. He started Software Systems Service Corp. in Lincoln in 1995 and that entity was suspended in 2001. Stack listed himself as chief executive officer of both companies. □

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APNewsBreak: Top UN climate official resigning



United Nations climate chief Yvo de Boer addresses a press conference in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010. De Boer defended the findings of an U.N. panel on climate change Thursday saying some errors on the pace of retreat of Himalayan glaciers should not detract from the overall conclusions drawn by the world's most authoritative report on global warming.

Associates Press

ARTHUR MAX

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Top U.N. climate change official Yvo de Boer told The Associated Press on Thursday that he was resigning after nearly four years, a period when governments struggled without success to agree on a new global warming deal. His departure takes effect July 1, five months before 193 nations are due to reconvene in Mexico for another attempt to reach a binding worldwide accord on controlling greenhouse gases. De Boer's resignation adds to the uncertainty that a full treaty can be finalized there.

De Boer is known to be deeply disappointed with the outcome of the last summit in Copenhagen, which drew 120 world leaders but failed to reach more than a vague promise by several countries

to limit carbon emissions — and even that deal fell short of consensus.

But he denied to the AP that his decision to quit was a result of frustration with Copenhagen. "Copenhagen wasn't what I had hoped it would be," he acknowledged, but the summit nonetheless prompted governments to submit plans and targets for reigning in the emissions primarily blamed for global warming. "I think that's a pretty solid foundation for the global response that many are looking for," he said.

De Boer told the AP he believes talks "are on track."

He recommended the next talks take a different tack. Rather than convene several negotiating sessions involving nearly 200 countries, Mexico, which is chairing the negotiations throughout this year, should prepare the

November conference to work in smaller groups to lay the groundwork of a deal.

The Mexicans should "engage more intensively early in the process, so that you don't only rely on formal meetings but through bilateral contacts and frequent meetings in a smaller setting and an earlier understanding of how the process can be advanced," he told AP.

"At the moment, it tends to be very much a stop-and-start affair with everything concentrated in the formal negotiations, where I think a much more continuous engagement by (Mexico) is needed."

The partial agreement reached in Copenhagen, brokered by Obama, "was very significant," he said. But he acknowledged frustration that the deal was merely "noted" rather than formally adopted

by all countries.

"We were about an inch away from a formal agreement. It was basically in our grasp, but it didn't happen," he said. "So that was a pity."

The media-savvy former Dutch civil servant and climate negotiator was widely credited with raising the profile of climate issues through his frequent press encounters and his backstage lobbying of world leaders.

But his constant travel and frenetic diplomacy failed to bridge the suspicions and distrust between developing and industrial countries that barred the way to a final agreement at the climate change summit in Copenhagen in December.

People who know de Boer say he was more disheartened by the snail-paced negotiations than he was ready to admit. □



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PG-13	THE LOVELY BONES	5:30	8:30	NEW
	daily:	2:30	late show:	11:30
PG-13	LA VIRGEN NEGRA	6:45	9:00	NEW
	daily:		late show:	11:15
R	EDGE OF DARKNESS	6:00	8:30	
	daily:	1:00	late show:	11:00
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	4:00		
	daily:	2:00	late show:	
PG	VALENTINE'S DAY	6:15	8:45	
	daily:	12:30	late show:	11:30
R	THE WOLFMAN	6:00	8:45	
	daily:	12:15	late show:	11:30
R	LEGION	4:45	7:15	
	daily:	12:00	late show:	12:15

AT PASEO HERENCIA

R	FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4:00	6:15	8:30	NEW
	daily:	1:45	late show:	11:00	
PG-13	DEAR JOHN	6:15	8:45		
	daily:	1:15	late show:	11:30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	4:15			
	daily:	2:00	late show:		
PG	PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS	5:30	8:15		
	daily:	12:00	late show:	11:00	
PG-13	IT'S COMPLICATED		6:30	9:00	
	daily:		late show:	11:30	
R	THE BOOK OF ELI	6:00	9:00		
	daily:	12:15	late show:	11:45	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	4:45	8:00		
	daily:	1:30	late show:	11:15	



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TALIBAN SWEEPS

Continued from Front Page

Nine Taliban militants linked to al-Qaida were nabbed in three raids late Wednesday and early Thursday near the port city of Karachi, Pakistani intelligence officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't supposed to release the information.

Two Taliban shadow governors also were apprehended in separate raids, Afghan and Pakistani officials said without giving specifics.

The arrests follow the capture in Karachi of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, second only to the Taliban's one-eyed leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar. The White House and the Pakistani army have confirmed Baradar's arrest but have released few details, including when and how he was apprehended.

Pakistani intelligence officials said Baradar was traveling by car on the outskirts of Karachi when agents intercepted his vehicle, arresting him along with three bodyguards. One intelligence official said Baradar has provided "useful" information that led to the arrests of other militants.

They said communications intercepted by U.S. authorities played a key role in tracking and arresting the suspects, who were in Karachi buying timers and other bomb-making

equipment. They were taken to Islamabad for questioning. Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said the U.S. was pleased with the recent arrests. He declined to say whether they were the result of better intelligence or an increased willingness by Pakistan to go after suspected militants.

"What I will say to you, yet again, is that we are enormously heartened by the fact that the Pakistani government and their military intelligence services increasingly recognize the threat within their midst and are doing something about it," Morrell said.

Some of those apprehended included key figures in the Afghan insurgency, while others are members of militant groups that operate just across the border in Pakistan.

Among those arrested were Ameer Muawiya, a bin Laden associate who was in charge of foreign al-Qaida militants in Pakistan's border areas, and Akhunzada Popalzai, also known as Mohammad Younis, a one-time Taliban shadow governor in Zabul province and former police chief in Kabul, according to Mullah Mamamood, a tribal leader in Ghazni province.

Others captured in Karachi included Hamza, a former Afghan army commander in Helmand province during Taliban rule, and Abu Riyad al Zarqawi, a liaison with

Chechen and Tajik militants in Pakistan's border area, Pakistani officials said.

Taliban shadow governors — Mullah Abdul Salam of Kunduz province and Mullah Mohammad in Baghlan province — were arrested separately in Pakistan about 10 to 12 days ago, according to the Kunduz governor, Mohammad Omar.

The two shadow governors were instrumental in expanding Taliban influence in the north, raising fears the insurgency was spreading beyond its base in the south. Salam was arrested in the Pakistani city of Faisalabad. One of the officials said Salam's arrest was the result of information gleaned from Mullah Baradar. "He was Mullah Omar's key person in the north," said Omar, the Kunduz governor. "He was a tyrant. He was a cruel person. He strongly rejected the peace process."

Taliban spokesmen have denied the arrests, accusing NATO of spreading propaganda to undermine the morale of Taliban fighters holding out in Marjah against the biggest NATO military operation of the eight-year war.

Thousands of U.S., British and Afghan troops are besieging Taliban-controlled areas around the Helmand province town, linchpin of the militant's southern supply and drug-smuggling network.



U.S. Marine Pfc. Elias Prado of Brentwood, NY and from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment takes cover from the dust of a helicopter taking off from a forward operating campsite in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Thursday Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

Once Marjah is won, NATO is expected to shift to neighboring Kandahar province, the birthplace of the Taliban. Squeezing the Taliban goes hand-in-hand with U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal's strategy to convince the insurgents they can't win and offer militants a way to leave the Taliban. The Afghan government is finalizing a plan to coax low- and mid-level fighters to switch sides in exchange for economic incentives and to lure the Taliban's top echelon into reconciliation talks.

Baradar is considered a pragmatic Taliban leader, prompting some experts on the region to speculate that he was captured so he could liaise with the Taliban leadership. Asked about that theory,

Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, told reporters this week in Kabul: "I've read the speculation, but I'm not going to join in it except to say that it seems pretty fanciful to me."

U.S. officials have complained for years that Pakistan was protecting key Taliban figures in an apparent bid to maintain influence in case the movement returned to power.

Shaun Gregory, a Pakistan expert at Britain's Bradford University, said he thought Pakistan likely cooperated in the sweep because of "some sort of promise or guarantee from the Americans that it will have a significant role as the reconciliation process goes forward." □

US-Cuba immigration talks under cloud of mistrust



Craig Kelly, the principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, seen here in 2009, is in Cuba to hold fresh talks on migration issues.

PAUL HAVEN,
Associated Press Writer

HAVANA (AP) — The last time U.S. diplomats traveled to Havana, they held secret talks with their Cuban counterparts that were hailed as the most

(AFP/File/Orlando Sierra)

significant in decades. Almost nothing has gone right for U.S.-Cuba relations in the five long months since.

When State Department officials sit down with Cuban leaders for immigration talks

Friday, the encounter will take place under a cloud of mutual mistrust and dashed hopes. Last year's hopes that the election of President Barack Obama could mean quicker progress toward ending a half-century of U.S.-Cuban enmity now seem a pipe dream.

"Expectations on both sides were perhaps too high, and as a result I think there is a lot of disappointment," said Robert Pastor, a longtime foreign policy adviser on hemispheric affairs and professor at American University.

The delegation will be led by Craig Kelly, deputy assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs and the most senior U.S. official to travel to Cuba in years. One of Kelly's subordinates, Bisa Williams, came in September

for separate talks aimed at re-establishing direct mail service.

A State Department spokesman told The Associated Press that Kelly could venture beyond the meeting's focus and into stickier subjects.

"Other matters of mutual concern may arise in our meetings," Charles Luoma-Overstreet said.

That surely includes the fate of Alan P. Gross, a 60-year-old U.S. government contractor from Potomac, Maryland, arrested in Cuba on Dec. 3. Gross — a longtime international development worker who Cuba contends is a spy — has been held at Havana's high-security Villa Marista jail without charge for allegedly supplying communication equipment to members of Cuba's tiny Jewish community.

"This is a matter we have raised on multiple occasions with the Cuban government and that we will continue to raise with them," said Luoma-Overstreet. "We believe he should be released and permitted to return to his family."

Ending weeks of silence, Gross's wife put out an Internet video Thursday pleading for his release.

"Alan has done nothing wrong and we need him home," a somber looking Judy Gross said. "Alan is a humanitarian. He loves other cultures. ... In Cuba, he was helping the Jewish community improve communications and Internet access."

She expressed hope that this week's talks will help lead to her husband's release.

"We're hoping that the U.S. officials and the Cuban officials can get together and mutually agree on a way to bring him home," she said.

She said she had been allowed three brief phone conversations with her husband, and he had been visited twice by U.S. consular officials.

Pastor said the timing of Gross' arrest has been particularly chilling for relations.

"In the eyes of some in the United States, the question is, 'Why did the Cubans arrest him now?'" he said. "The

Cubans apparently knew of his work and the program for many years, so the fact they arrested him at this moment has led some in the government to ask what message they are trying to send."

Things seemed far more positive last September, when Williams stayed on in Cuba after the mail talks for unannounced meetings with senior officials and toured a government agricultural facility.

A Cuban official told AP at the time that she also attended a rock concert that drew hundreds of thousands to the iconic Revolution Plaza, beneath a giant likeness of revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

The visit raised hopes of a new beginning for relations under Obama, who has said he wanted to extend a hand of friendship — but it has been all downhill since then.

In November, the State Department expressed concern after reputed Cuban security officials briefly detained a well-known blogger, Yoani Sanchez. Obama later personally responded to a series of questions that Sanchez posted on her Web site, raising her profile and angering Cuban officials.

Havana held military exercises soon after that a senior army official said were designed to counter a possible U.S. attack.

More recently, Cuban leaders have been highly critical of Obama's performance at climate talks in Copenhagen, suspicious of U.S. policy in Latin America, and downright apoplectic about Cuba's inclusion on a list of alleged state sponsors of terrorism.

In December, Fidel Castro wrote in an essay that Obama's "friendly smile and African-American face" are masking Washington's sinister designs on Latin America. Cuba's foreign minister called the U.S. president an "imperial and arrogant" liar.

Castro even criticized U.S. relief efforts in quake-devastated Haiti, accusing Washington of sending troops to "occupy Haitian territory." □

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Niger soldiers confirm coup on state TV

DALATOU MAMANE

Associated Press Writer

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Renegade soldiers in armored vehicles stormed Niger's presidential palace with a hail of gunfire in broad daylight Thursday, kidnapping the country's strongman president and then appearing on state television to declare they staged a successful coup. The soldiers also said on state TV that the country's constitution had been suspended and all its institutions dissolved. The spokesman for the soldiers said the country is now being led by the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy. He asked citizens and the international community to have faith in their ideals which "could turn Niger into an example of democracy and of good governance."

Smoke rose from the white-hued multistory palace complex and the echo of machine-gunfire for at least two

hours sent frightened residents running for cover, emptying the desert country's downtown boulevards at midday. Traore Amadou, a local journalist who was in the presidency when the shooting began, said President Mamadou Tandja was kidnapped by mutinous troops.

French radio station Radio France Internationale reported that the soldiers burst in and neutralized the presidential guard before entering the room where Tandja was holding a Cabinet meeting. They politely escorted him outside to a waiting car which drove him toward a military camp on the outskirts of the capital. His whereabouts remained unknown hours later when the soldiers took to the airwaves to announce the coup.

Tandja first took power in democratic elections in 1999 that followed an era of coups and rebellions. But instead of stepping down as mandated by law on Dec. 22, he triggered

a political crisis by pushing through a new constitution in August that removed term limits and gave him near-totalitarian powers.

Niger has become increasingly isolated since then, with the 15-nation regional bloc of West African states suspending Niger from its ranks and the U.S. government cutting off non-humanitarian aid and imposing travel restrictions on some government officials. The ease with which Niger's democratic institutions have been swept aside has marked a setback for a region struggling to shake off autocratic rulers. In Guinea, a military junta seized power in December 2008 after the death of the country's longtime dictator, only to have the junta leader go into voluntary exile after he survived an assassination attempt a year later.

The nation's latest troubles began suddenly in Niamey on Thursday afternoon, when gunfire broke out around the

impoverished nation's small presidency.

"Armored vehicles came into the palace and began shooting at the building," said Moussa Mounkaila, a palace driver. He said the mutinous troops had come from a military barracks at Tondibia, about seven miles (12 kilometers) west of the capital. Mounkaila said he saw some smoke rising from the damaged presidency before he jumped over a wall and fled. Tandja had just gathered government ministers for a Cabinet meeting when the gunfire erupted outside.

A diplomat in neighboring Burkina Faso said the mutinous soldiers are led by Col. Abdoulaye Adamou Harouna, the former aide-de-camp of Niger's previous coup leader Maj. Daouda Mallam Wanke. In Niamey, soldiers contacted by telephone inside their barracks said the coup was led by Col. Adamou Harouna, but gave a different first name — saying it was Djibril, not



FILE - In this Friday, July 31, 2009 file photo Niger President Mamadou Tandja speaks to journalists at the presidential residence in Niamey, Niger. Gunfire has been reported Thursday, February 18, 2010 near the presidential palace in the West African nation of Niger

Associated Press

Abdoulaye. It was Wanke that led the 1999 coup, seizing power after the country's former military strongman was gunned down in an incident that was dubbed "an accident." Wanke, however, organized democratic elections less than a year later, which Tandja won. □



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Alexander McQueen fashion label to live on



FILE - This Monday, June 2, 2003 file photo shows Alexander McQueen posing for photographers after winning the International Award at the 2003 Council of Fashion Design Awards held in New York. Fashion designer Alexander McQueen was found hanging in the wardrobe of his London apartment last week with a note left nearby, a British coroner's official told an inquest Wednesday Feb. 17, 2010. No details of the note were released by the coroner's office, which is charged with formally identifying the circumstances of the designer's death.

(AP Photo / Stuart Ramson, File)

PARIS — PPR SA says Alexander McQueen's namesake label will live on despite the tragic death of the designer.

CEO Francois-Henri Pinault made the announcement Thursday after paying homage to McQueen, who was found hanging in his wardrobe last

week.

Pinault called McQueen a genius, a poet and a friend.

The designer rose to fame in the 1990s, and was known for his daring and edgy style and skillful tailoring. □

Kathryn Grayson, star of '40s, '50s musicals, dies

By BOB THOMAS,
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Kathryn Grayson, whose beauty and lilting soprano voice brightened such popular MGM musicals of the 1940s and '50s as "Anchors Aweigh," "Show Boat" and "Kiss Me Kate," has died at age 88.

Grayson died Wednesday at her Los Angeles home, the actress' longtime secretary and companion, Sally Sherman, told The Associated Press.

"She just went to sleep and didn't wake up," Sherman said Thursday.

Grayson's youthful ambition was to sing opera, but she wasn't able to accomplish that dream until after her movie career ended. While still a teenager, she was placed

under contract at MGM at a time when the studio was assembling a stable of musical talent that would dominate the era of great musicals.

"I thought they were wasting their time and money," Grayson recalled of her first days at the studio. "I even told (studio boss) Louis B. Mayer that. He said he knew a lot more than a 16-year-old girl who is and who isn't good material for pictures."

"He offered a deal: I would make a screen test, and if the studio liked the test, I would shut up forever. If not, I would go."

"It was the longest test in motion picture history. They spent hundreds of thousands of dollars; it was almost a two-reeler. I did everything—opera, popular songs, drama, comedy. ... The studio liked it. I told Mr. Mayer I didn't like it. He went home with a heart attack."

Concerned, Grayson agreed to stay, and she turned down an offer to sing "Lucia" at the Metropolitan Opera. She later learned that Mayer had two ploys to persuade recalcitrant actors: to cry or to claim a heart attack.

Like Lana Turner, Esther Williams, Donna Reed and other MGM newcomers, Grayson was given a tryout as Mickey Rooney's sweetheart in the studio's popular Andy Hardy film series. She played the title role in "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" and sang Strauss's "Voices of Spring." Mayer was convinced that he had a future star.

She was cast in three minor films, including a musical with Abbot and Costello, then played Gene Kelly's girlfriend in a wartime revue that included major MGM stars, "Thousands Cheer."

"Anchors Aweigh," a 1945 hit with Kelly and Frank Sinatra, confirmed her star status. Her bell-like soprano made her the ideal co-star with Hollywood's full-voiced male singers in operettas and other musicals. She made three films with Howard Keel, two

with Mario Lanza, one with Gordon MacRae.

Other musicals included "Two Sisters from Boston," "Ziegfeld Follies," "Till the Clouds Roll By," "That Midnight Kiss," "The Toast of New Orleans," "Lovely to Look At," "The Desert Song" and "So This Is Love."

Normally she was the most congenial of actresses during filming, but she did have one public flare-up with the temperamental Lanza. He lit the fire when he told an interviewer: "I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for Kathryn because she was in my first two pictures."

She took offense because she believed as an established MGM star, they were her pictures. She told an interviewer she objected to Lanza's behavior on the set, especially his vulgar language.

Her last film, "The Vagabond King" in 1956, soured her on movies. She was scheduled to be reunited with Lanza, but he pulled one of his characteristic no-shows. An unknown Oreste Kirkpop (billed only as Oreste), was a last-minute substitution. "He couldn't speak English, so the director, Mike Curtiz, told me to speak his lines."

"But I'm not Francois Villon," I said. "It doesn't matter," said Mike." Oreste's lines were dubbed.

"It never should have been made," she told an interviewer. "(Composer) Rudolf Friml was so upset about it that he told Paramount he was going out of town for the weekend. He went to Hong Kong."

Born Zelma Kathryn Hedrick on Feb. 9, 1922, in Winston-Salem, N.C., Grayson's father a building contractor and real estate agent. Because of his business, the family moved frequently, eventually settling in St. Louis. Her parents recognized her gifted voice and arranged an audition before opera star Frances Marshall. She encouraged the girl to continue her music lessons. □

Source: 'Idol' semifinalist bumped over 'veracity'



In this publicity image released by Fox, the 24 finalists for the 9th season of the reality singing competition 'American Idol,' are shown.

(AP Photo/Fox, Patrick Ecclestein)

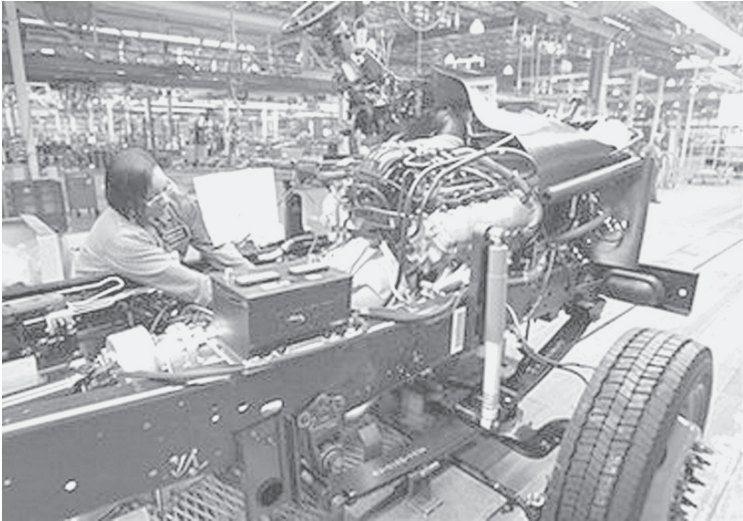
By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer
Lynn Elber, AP Television Writer — 2 mins ago
LOS ANGELES — A person close to "American Idol" says contestant Chris Golightly was dropped from the top 24 because of a "lack of veracity" during the Fox TV show's audition process. The person said Thursday that Golightly didn't disclose that he'd had a music contract, a point on which all contestants are queried

because the show doesn't include singers with current contracts. It was Golightly's failure to mention the contract, not whether it was in force, that led to his departure, the person said. The person, who lacked authority to comment publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity. Golightly, a shoe salesman from Los Angeles, couldn't immediately be reached for comment. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Job market improvement may be slowing, data show



In this photo made Feb. 8, 2010, Detroit Chassis assembly line worker Deirdre Dudley works on a RV chassis in Detroit. Wholesale prices shot up at double the expected pace in January, propelled higher by big increases in energy costs.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

By DANIEL WAGNER
and MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — Layoffs aren't slowing as fast as some analysts had expected. That was the message Thursday in a government report that the number of people filing first-time claims for unemployment benefits rose unexpectedly last week. Jobless claims rose by 31,000 to a seasonally adjusted 473,000.

The increase followed a drop of 41,000 in the previous week. The earlier figure had raised hopes that the job market was improving steadily.

The four-week average for claims dipped 1,500 to 467,500, near the lows at the end of last year. The average smooths out week-to-week volatility. But many economists say the four-week average would need to fall consistently below 425,000 to signal that the economy is close to generating net job gains. The economy has lost 8.4 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007. Further evidence that the pace of the economic recovery is slowing was a private research group's

forecast of economic activity. The Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators rose for a 10th straight month in January, but the rate of increase is easing. The index is designed to forecast activity in the next three to six months. Many economists have raised concern that growth will stagnate this year as government support programs wind down and unemployment remains high.

The key message from the leading indicators is that the recovery from the worst recession since the 1930s is plodding ahead — "stumbling at times, but it is moving forward," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Analysts say the closing of businesses and government offices last week because of snowstorms might have prevented some newly unemployed workers from filing their initial claims for unemployment benefits.

The figures were collected as the government also was gathering information for the February report on the unemployment rate and employer payrolls.

The severe weather may distort those figures, too, economists said. That could make it hard to get an accurate picture of the job market for several weeks.

Even so, some analysts said the latest figures are a cautionary signal.

"At least for the moment, the trend in layoffs seems at best to have leveled off — and perhaps to have begun a renewed increase," Pierre Ellis, an economist at Decision Economics, wrote in a research note.

Manufacturing has been among the few pockets of strength in the economy. But many other industries in the much larger service sector remain weak.

"Strong manufacturing is not enough to support the labor market as a whole, it seems," said Ian Shepherdson, an economist at High Frequency Economics.

A third report Thursday said wholesale prices shot up at double the expected pace in January. But the surprising surge was viewed as a temporary blip and not a signal of sustained inflation. The Labor Department said wholesale prices rose 1.4 percent. But most of the increase was due to a jump in gasoline prices, which surged 11.5 percent.

Core inflation at the wholesale level, which excludes energy and food, rose 0.3 percent. But that, too, was due mainly to a single volatile category: light trucks. Over the past 12 months, core prices at the wholesale level have risen a moderate 1 percent. Most economists say inflation is unlikely to become a threat any time soon because of downward pressures on wages and prices from layoffs and fear of further job losses □



Winner of Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, Sadie (L) and handler Gabriel Rangel (2nd L) ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange, February 18, 2010.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

Stronger manufacturing report lifts stock market

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market edged higher as news of stronger regional manufacturing offset concerns about unemployment and weak sales at Wal-Mart.

Stocks rose Thursday for a third straight day. The Dow Jones industrial average has gained more than 200 points this week. Treasury prices fell as improvements in some economic reports eased demand for safe havens.

The Philadelphia Federal Reserve said manufacturing in its region is improving. The Philly Fed's manufacturing index rose to 17.6 in February from 15.2 in January. That follows reports the past two days that also pointed to a pickup in business at the nation's factories.

The report lifted stocks of companies that process raw materials because increased manufacturing should boost sales. Newmont Mining Corp. and glass maker Owens-Illinois Inc. each rose more than 2 percent. The market's advance was limited by a Labor Department report that the number of workers seeking unemployment benefits for the first time rose 31,000 to 473,000 last week. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters forecast claims would fall. Unemployment is a major obstacle to a sustained recovery.

Meanwhile, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reported a drop in quarterly sales at its flagship U.S. stores and issued a disappointing forecast. Investors have been buying stocks this week on growing evidence of growth in the U.S. economy. They seem to have stopped worrying, at least for now, about potential overseas troubles derailing a global recovery. Investors have been concerned that debt problems in Greece and other European countries could spread. China's move to tighten lending standards and slow its growth to avoid speculative bubbles has also worried investors. Eric Mintz, assistant portfolio manager of the Eagle Mid Cap Growth Fund in St. Petersburg, Fla., said traders were able to look past the latest jobs report because heavy snow in parts of the country has skewed some of the numbers to make unemployment look worse. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Maria Riesch wins women's Olympic super-combi

CHRIS LEHOURITES,

AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Maria Riesch joined best friend Lindsey Vonn as an Alpine gold medalist at the Vancouver Olympics on Thursday, winning the super-combined race on Whistler mountain.

The German skier, who had been second to Vonn after the downhill portion of the two-run race, won the gold in a combined time of 2 minutes, 9.14 seconds — a day after the American won the downhill despite a bruised right shin.

“I was really nervous, that was the problem for the downhill,” Riesch said. “Today I was much more calm, more confident.”

Julia Mancuso, who earned the silver on Wednesday in the downhill, was again second on the podium in the super-combi, and Anja Paerson of Sweden took bronze. Vonn missed a gate and then lost a ski in the slalom, failing to finish.

“My skiing is feeling really good now, and I have two more events and I hope I can make them just as good,” said Mancuso, who is the



Germany's Maria Riesch, center, the gold medalist celebrates with Julia Mancuso of the United States, left, who took the silver and bronze medalist Sweden's Anja Paerson during the flower ceremony for the Women's super combined at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

defending Olympic champion in the giant slalom.

The course used for the downhill portion of Thursday's race was slightly shortened and the final jump was shaved due to a spate of crashes on Wednesday.

Tora Berger reached a

milestone for Norway, winning the country's 100th Winter Olympic gold medal in the 15-kilometer individual biathlon race. A short time later, Emil Hegle Svendsen won the 101st for the Norwegians, taking gold in the men's 20K individual biathlon.

Associated Press
Behind Norway in the all-time medals table in the Winter Olympics is the United States, which has won 83 gold medals.

Berger, who won her first Olympic title, missed only one target on her very last shot for a 1-minute penalty, but had

built up such a large lead that it didn't matter. She finished in 40:58.2, beating silver medalist Elena Khrustaleva of Kazakhstan by 20.7 seconds.

“It was really good but the last shooting really hurt because I missed,” Berger said.

In the women's 1,000-meter speedskating race, Christine Nesbitt of Canada won the host country's third gold medal of the Vancouver Games.

There are two more medals to be won Thursday, which is Day 7 of the Olympics. The men's figure skating gold will be decided after the free program, while the women's snowboarding halfpipe is also on the program.

The Big 3 in men's ice hockey are also back on the ice. The United States beat Norway 6-1, with Brian Rafalski scoring twice in the closing minutes. Later Thursday, Canada was to play Switzerland while Russia was to face Slovakia.

In the women's super-combined, Vonn was fastest in the downhill, but she said after the run that her shin was “killing” her. After starting her slalom leg, she still led Riesch at the first checkpoint, but then fell behind by the second — moments before missing the gate and crashing into the snow.

“It hurts so bad,” Vonn said. “It's one thing to do the downhill, but the super-combined is really tough on my shin. I tried as hard as I could.” Riesch nearly lost control in her downhill run, getting too much air in a small jump before halfway and veering momentarily off course, but her time of 1:24.49 was still fast enough to make her the favorite heading into the slalom leg.

After two straight days of racing, the women will have the day off Friday before the super-G on Saturday. Vonn will again be the favorite for that event. □



James Blake, left, shakes hands with Andy Roddick following their match at the Regions Morgan Keegan Championship tennis tournament in Memphis, Tenn., Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010. Roddick defeated Blake 6-3, 4-6, 7-6.

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Top-seeded Andy Roddick snapped a three-match losing streak to fellow American James Blake with a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (3) victory in the first round of the

Roddick beats Blake in opening round in Memphis

Regions Morgan Keegan Championships on Wednesday night. Blake broke Roddick's serve in the 10th game of the third set to pull even at 5-5. Both then held serve sending the match to the tiebreaker.

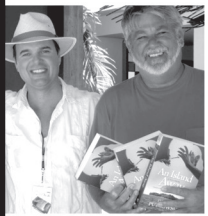
He went up in the tiebreaker when he broke serve on the fourth point as Blake hit a backhand wide down the line. Blake would end up with three unforced errors off the backhand in the tiebreaker.

“Whoever won was going to be pretty darn well-prepared for the rest of the tournament and feel good about their chances,” Blake said. “It's tough to swallow.”

“It just didn't go my way on a couple of points,” Blake said of the tiebreaker. “A couple of missed backhands, and he kept the pressure on me the whole time.”

As usual, Roddick used a strong serve, recording 22 aces and converting 75 percent of his first serves.

“I served well in the tiebreaker,” Roddick said. “I served smart in the tiebreaker.” □



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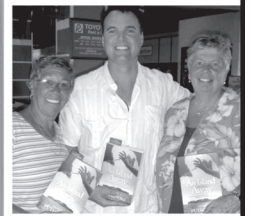
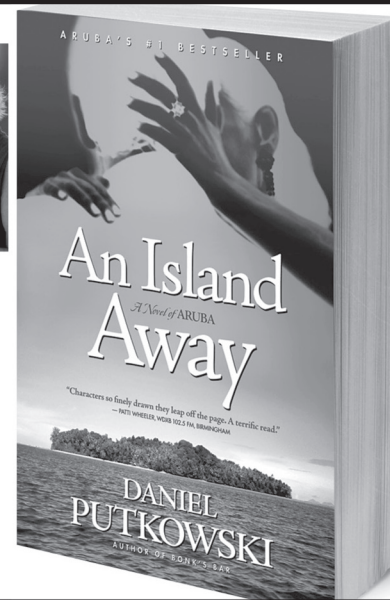
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Bettman: NHL not close to 2014 decision

ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The NHL might not decide until at 2012 or later whether it's going to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said Thursday no decision is imminent about possibly shutting down for two weeks to accommodate an Olympics in which some games would be played in the middle of the night in North America, thus affecting TV viewership and interest.

Before the NHL makes up its mind, a collecting bargaining agreement between owners and players must be negotiated — the current deal expires after the 2010-11 season — and American TV rights must be awarded. Bettman said the decision could be several years off.

"There will come a point in time where we have to make a decision, but we went to Torino (in 2006) at the last second," Bettman said.

The NHL didn't sign off until those Olympics until about a month after a labor agreement reached in July 2005 ended a one-season shutdown.

The International Ice Hockey Federation dreads the thought of an Olympics without Alex Ovechkin or Sidney Crosby, with president Rene Fasel all but pleading with the NHL to take part. The NHL is appearing in its fourth consecutive Olympics, starting

in 1998.

"This is the pinnacle," Fasel said at a joint news conference with Bettman. "For our game, our fans, Gary, we need you, 100 percent. ... I think we can play without the participation of the NHL players, the game of hockey is the game of hockey, but we need to have them here."

Fasel argued that the league takes a five-day break for its All-Star game during non-Olympic years, and that adding another week or so every four years shouldn't be a major handicap.

Bettman cautioned the decision can't be made hastily, citing concerns about not playing games at a time when fan interest is peaking and playoff momentum is building.

"It's clear from 30,000 feet, being here for two weeks as part of the Olympic experience, it's all good," said Bettman, who met Wednesday with Fasel and IOC president Jacques Rogge for general discussions about NHL participation. "You do have to take a step back at ground level and look at the impact on our season."

Ovechkin, one of the NHL's signature stars, is threatening to play in Sochi no matter what the NHL does. Bettman said it is much too early to talk about what the league might do about a player who abandoned his team at midseason.

"I don't think I'm going to bother addressing what we would do in the event we

Rene Fasel, International Ice Hockey Federation President, right, and Gary Bettman, National Hockey League Commissioner are seen during a press conference at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

make that decision until we actually make that decision," Bettman said. "Let's deal with the first issue first and then we'll worry about what flows from that."

This Olympic tournament is being called the most talent-heavy in Olympic history, with an infusion of younger players such as Crosby and some of the sport's aging stars — Jaromir Jagr, Peter Forsberg, Teemu Selanne — still competitive.

Bettman said the glow of Vancouver won't necessarily affect any decision about Sochi, which offers far different logistics than a North American Olympics, including travel and television.

"Being in Vancouver, being in Canada, with Canada's game, was always a no-brainer," Bettman said.

NHL owners are concerned about turning over more \$2.1 billion worth of players, the estimated contract values of those playing in Vancouver, to a governing body other than their own in the middle of the season. The NHL also doesn't dictate when games are played and who televises them during the Olympics. □



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NBA Roundup

Newcomer fires Mavs over Suns

Dallas Mavericks guard Caron Butler (4) goes up for a shot as Phoenix Suns forward Grant Hill, left, defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, in Dallas.

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas newcomer Caron Butler started a key third-quarter run that led to the Dallas Mavericks' 107-97 win over the Phoenix Suns in Wednesday's clash of two NBA Western Conference contenders.

Butler, acquired from Washington in a seven-player deal Saturday, scored 15 points and hit a jumper to open a 16-4 run in the third.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points for Dallas, which maintained a one-game lead in the Southwest Division.

Amare Stoudemire, mentioned in trade rumors in recent days, had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who had their five-game road winning streak snapped.

Jazz 98, Hornets 90

In New Orleans, Paul Millsap scored 24 points on 11 of 13 shooting as Utah downed New Orleans.

Carlos Boozer scored six of his 16 points in the last 3:06, and added 15 rebounds for the Jazz, who crept within one game of Northwest-leading Denver.

The Hornets were led by rookie Darren Collison, who had 24 points and nine assists.

Magic 116, Pistons 91

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had a season-high 33 points and added 17 rebounds to help Orlando beat Detroit.

The reigning Defensive Player of the Year added seven blocks in a dominating performance. He was also 11 for 13 on free throws — a refreshing change from his normal woes.

Vince Carter finished with 20 points for the Magic.

Detroit was topped by Richard Hamilton's 36 points.

Grizzlies 109, Raptors 102, OT

In Toronto, Rudy Gay scored eight of his 29 points in overtime to help Memphis

edge Toronto and snap a five-game losing streak.

Zach Randolph had 24 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis.

Chris Bosh had 32 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, which lost its first home game in nine.

Hawks 110, Clippers 92

In Los Angeles, Al Horford scored a career-high 31 points in his 200th NBA game and Atlanta handed Los Angeles its sixth straight loss.

Josh Smith had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Joe Johnson added 18 points for Atlanta. Chris Kaman had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who are winless in five games since Kim Hughes replaced Mike Dunleavy as head coach.

Rockets 127, Bucks 99

In Milwaukee, Trevor Ariza hit a career-high six 3-pointers, scoring 22 points and lifting Houston to a comfortable win over Milwaukee.

In all, Houston hit 16 shots from beyond the arc — one short of the franchise record. Shane Battier was 6 of 6 from 3-point range, one short of his career high, and finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

The 127 points was a season high for the Rockets, who also shot a season-best 57.5 percent from the field.

Rookie Brandon Jennings scored 13 points for Milwaukee.

Spurs 90, Pacers 87

In Indianapolis, Tony Parker came back from injury to score 28 points and lead San Antonio to a tight victory over Indiana.

Parker has missed the final game before the All-Star break with a strained hip flexor.

Tim Duncan had just eight points on 4-for-23 shooting, but had 26 rebounds and five assists for the Spurs.

Danny Granger scored 23 points for Indiana.

Bulls 115, Knicks 109

In New York, Derrick Rose scored 27 points as Chicago downed New York.

Luol Deng added 23 for the Bulls, who came from 15 points down to move above .500 at 27-26 and hand the Knicks their fifth straight loss.

Al Harrington scored 27 points for New York.

Heat 87, Nets 84

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Miami overcame the early loss of All-Star MVP Dwyane Wade to beat New Jersey for its season-high fourth straight victory.

Wade strained his left calf in the first quarter and did not return. He finished with eight points, snapping his streak of 148 straight games in double figures, the second-longest active streak in the NBA behind LeBron James (255). Michael Beasley had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, while Brook Lopez had 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

In Oakland, California, C.J. Watson scored a career-high 40 points as Golden State routed Sacramento.

Watson scored 23 points in the first half, matching his season high for a game, and made 15 of his first 16 shots. He also had seven rebounds and six assists.

Stephen Curry had a career-best 15 assists for Golden State to complement 24 points and six rebounds.

Tyreke Evans had 17 points and 10 assists for the Kings.

In Washington, Andray Blatche, a last-minute substitution for Antawn Jamison, scored a career-high 33 points and had 13 rebounds for Washington in the win over Minnesota. □

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Top seeds, defending champion lose in Match Play

BOB BAUM,
AP Sports Writer
MARANA, Arizona (AP) — The often-unpredictable Match Play Championship more than lived up to its reputation in a topsy-turvy second round when the remaining top four seeds and defending champion were beaten at Dove Mountain on Thursday.

An event already minus Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson sent several of the world's best to an early exit.

Lee Westwood, Jim Furyk, Martin Kaymer and Rory McIlroy — seeded second through fifth entering the tournament — were among the day's losers. Defending champion Geoff Ogilvy was beaten by Colombian Camilo Villegas 2 and 1. Top-seeded Steve Stricker lost in Wednesday's first round.

The highest remaining seed was England's Paul Casey at No. 6. Casey, the runner-up a year ago who won the World Match Play Championship in England in 2006, swiftly dispatched Canadian Mike Weir, 5 and 4.

The field was narrowed to 16 for Thursday's third round on the sun-drenched desert course near Tucson. Woods, obviously, skipped the event because of his personal woes, and Mickelson begged off to go on vacation with his family.

If that didn't take enough luster off the event, news that Woods would make his first public statement on his sex scandal on Friday certainly did.

But despite the lower profile, the Match Play is proving to be a wide-open competition.

"Like you saw, Steve Stricker won two weeks ago and lost yesterday. So it's a crazy format," said American Nick Watney, who beat Westwood 2 and 1.

The final 16 features five players from the United States, three each from England and South Africa and one apiece from Colombia, Spain, Japan, India and Thailand.

"We had nine Englishmen in the field, which was impressive," Casey said. "I mean, obviously it was because of Tiger and Phil not being here. But I think that puts a little extra sort of emphasis. You kind of want to be the last Englishman here."

Westwood, an Englishman, came back from two down to pull even after 13 holes. Watney, in his first Match Play appearance, regrouped to win the par-4 14th and 15th with birdies to win 2 and 1.

Furyk and Kaymer both lost to South Africans.

A 13-time winner on the U.S. PGA Tour, Furyk was beaten by Charl Schwartzel 3 and 2. Germany's Kaymer also went down 3 and 2, to Tim Clark.

The closest two matches of the day went 20 holes, England's Oliver Wilson beating McIlroy, and South African Retief Goosen defeating Ernie Els.

Among the survivors was Spain's Sergio Garcia, a 2-and-1 winner over Swede Peter Hanson.



Camilo Villegas, left, of Colombia, and Geoff Ogilvy, of Australia, look down at the 12th hole as they wait on the elevated tee during the second round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

"It's a funny tournament, this match play," Garcia said, "because some years you come here you feel like you're replaying unbelievable, and you get beaten in the first or second round. And some years you come here, and you don't feel quite as great and you manage to somehow get around it."

After becoming the second No. 64 seed in the event's 12-year history to beat a No. 1 seed with his win over Stricker, England's Ross McGowan lost to Ryo Ishikawa of Japan

1-up. McGowan said his "intensity wasn't quite there as much."

"It's a fantastic event," McGowan said, "and just looking down the leaderboard and looking at the guys that are going out first and second round, and lots have won majors."

Ogilvy was 1-up through 14 holes, but Villegas had birdies on the next two, then clinched it by matching the defending champ's par on No. 17.

"Geoff is a great player and obviously he has a great

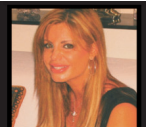
record in this tournament," Villegas said. "And he beat me last year. Funny enough, as players, we don't forget those things."

But they are friendly rivals. Ogilvy and Villegas had breakfast together before their match. Someone asked if they talked about Woods. "Who?" Villegas said to laughter in the interview room.

"You know what, there's enough talk about him. We don't need to be talking about him. Let the other people do it." □

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PGA Tour getting ready for Tiger Woods show



Tiger Woods jogs near his home Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, in Windermere, Fla. Woods will end nearly three months of silence Friday when he speaks publicly for the first time since his middle-of-the-night car accident sparked stunning revelations of infidelity. It will be Woods' first public appearance since Nov. 27.

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — When Tiger Woods makes his first public appearance in nearly three months on Friday, the big question is what will he say?

The topic was intriguing Americans — Woods was a trendy subject on Twitter a full day before his appearance.

Almost as intriguing is which “friends, colleagues and close associates” will be in the Sunset Room on the second floor of

the Mediterranean-style clubhouse at the TPC Sawgrass.

Woods hasn't been seen in public since crashing his car into a tree outside his Florida home on Nov. 27, sparking sordid revelations of infidelity, and he hasn't been heard in the 78 days since a magazine released a voicemail that he allegedly left for one of the women to whom he has been romantically linked, pleading with her to remove his number from her cell phone.

U.S. PGA Tour

commissioner Tim Finchem, who made the clubhouse available and was offering logistical help, has said he would attend, and as many as four other members of his executive staff will be in the room.

Security was tight by Thursday afternoon, with the main road to the clubhouse blocked off. Media were headquartered roughly a mile away at the Sawgrass Marriott, where seven satellite trucks were parked.

Inside, a couple of adjacent ballrooms where reporters will be able to watch the Woods' event looked like they were set up for a Super Bowl party. Flat-screen TVs stood along the walls and there was a big video screen in the center of the room.

A British bookmaker has set odds at 4-to-7 that Woods' wife, Elin, will be with him. William Hill didn't stop there, however. It offers 8-to-1 odds that Woods will announce he is getting a divorce, 12-to-1 odds that his wife is pregnant and 100-to-1 odds that he is retiring. “While Tiger feels that what happened is fundamentally a matter between he and his wife, he also recognizes that he has hurt and let down a lot of other people who were close to him,” his agent, Mark Steinberg, said in an e-mail on Wednesday. “He also let down his fans. He wants to

begin the process of making amends and that's what he's going to discuss.”

Woods essentially will be speaking to the lone camera allowed in the room. It will be televised live via satellite. Three networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — will carry the statement live. ESPN will have it live on all its platforms, including Internet streaming, radio and mobile. The Golf Channel will start coverage at 10:30 a.m. — call it a 30-minute pregame show.

Steinberg invited three reporters from wire services — The Associated Press, Reuters and Bloomberg — and he turned to the Golf Writers Association of America to come up with a pool of three reporters.

“This is not a press conference,” Steinberg said on Wednesday, the same day photos of Woods jogging in Florida were released.

Woods has always been about control, even in better times. He refused to go into the media center before a U.S. PGA Tour event if he was not the defending champion. If he agreed to a 10-minute interview to pitch a product he endorses, it was common for a company employee to be in the room making sure it didn't go one second beyond that.

But having not heard from Woods — except for three statements on his Web site — in three months, this

event has taken on a life of its own.

Conversation raged online, as many took glee in speculating on what Woods will say Friday.

The golfer was the hottest topic on Google Trends. On Twitter, Woods was a dominant topic.

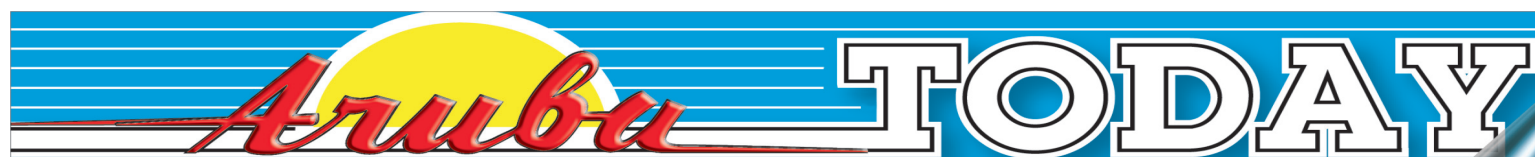
One of the most popular threads were tweets with the tag “tigershouldsay.” Suggestions were predominantly sarcastic, such as: “At least I didn't use steroids.”

Live events during work hours on weekdays have traditionally meant for robust traffic on the Web, since many viewers will be at work in front of computers, rather than home in front of TVs.

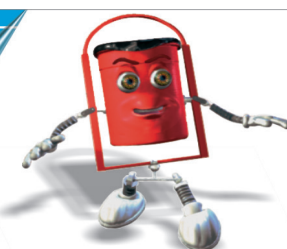
The U.S. PGA Tour will have two tournaments in progress on Friday, including the third round of the Accenture Match Play Championship, the first title sponsor to drop Woods during this sex scandal. Some players did not think it was a coincidence.

Most of them, however, will be just like everyone else — curious what Woods has to say, and how he says it.

“It has to be held at some stage,” Padraig Harrington said. “The sooner he makes a statement, the better. And the sooner he's back to playing golf — he's pretty good at playing golf — the better.” □



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Agreement in principle on Philipsburg Accord

PHILIPSBURG -- Six political parties of the Netherlands Antilles reached an agreement "in principle" Wednesday on forming the next and last Central Government and on a governing accord built around an agreement of termination as instructed by Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Frits Goedgedrag. The governing accord has been dubbed the "Philipsburg Accord," said Formateur Pedro Atacho. He said the parties partnered in the present coalition already had had "constructive and very positive discussions" in Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall. Negotiating are PAR and PNP of Curaçao, National Alliance (St. Maarten), UPB (Bonaire), Democratic Party of St. Eustatius and Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) of Saba. Atacho told The Daily Herald there was agreement in principle on the governing accord because the allocation of ministers in the new cabinet and the division of portfolios are still to be discussed. The size of the cabinet is first on the agenda when the talks resume today at 9:00am. Division of portfolios will be discussed today as well should there be enough time after agreement is reached on the number of ministers. Atacho has to report to Goedgedrag on Wednesday, March 3 with a firm decision on the number of ministers and division of portfolios. The new cabinet will take office at the end of March together with the new Parliament.

Continued on Page B4

At the Westin Art Gallery

Art for Haiti Makes a Thirty-Eight Thousand Florin Donation to the Red Cross



PALM BEACH -- Stitching Yuda Haiti in collaboration with task force SAN - Sociocultural Action Network - and the Aruba Arts Community sold 90 paintings and art objects on Tuesday February 9th, 2010, at a live auction, held at the Westin Aruba Resort Art Gallery.

More than 40 local artists



organizations.

Marie-Therese Croes, of Yuda Haiti, thanked all those who gave to the success of the auction, reiterating Haiti's "L'Union Fair La Force," unity yields strength,

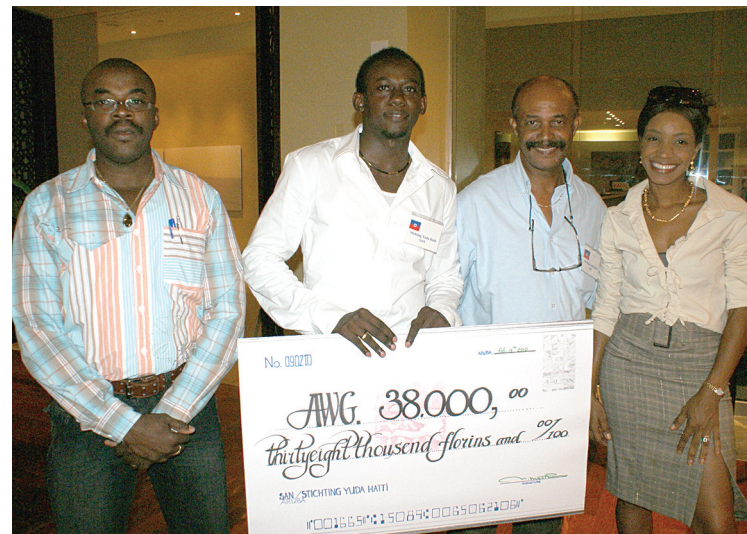
inscribed on the Haitian flag. In her warm works, she thanked the Aruba Art Community and the Westin Art Gallery, the Westin Resort Food & Beverage staff, Interprint, Romar Trading,

Martijn Trading, Balance Clinic, the local press, the volunteers, and all those who worked tirelessly to collect funds for humanitarian aid to earthquake stricken Haiti.

Continued on Page B3



contributed exceptional work to the show which attracted a very lively audience. The proceeds of the successful auction were handed to the Red Cross representative Thursday, a total of Awg 38,000 which resulted from the collaborative efforts of many individuals and



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Friends of the Handicapped annual Sweetheart's Dinner Dance this Saturday night



ORANJESTAD - This past Wednesday, Esta Kornstein proudly showed off the 3.1 carat diamond ring she won last year at the annual Friends of the Handicapped

(FOTH) Sweetheart's Dinner Dance, while visiting Nash Malwani at Noble Jewelers, who donated the ring; all for a good cause.

Nash and Noble has been

a long time supporter of FOTH, a group of veteran island visitors spending their winters on Aruba, who dedicate their time to raising funds for the island foundations that assist Aruba's physically and mentally challenged. As Art Stark, current president of the foundation, and late founder Keith Jones would say "It is our way of expressing "thank you" and our love to our friends on Aruba for providing us with such good times and enriching our lives with so many wonderful friendships and great memories."

This year, the dinner dance, which usually takes place on Valentine's Day, was postponed a week because of the final Carnival parade in Oranjestad. "We felt many might be distracted from celebrating Valentine's Day with a loved one as it should be done," commented Art's wife, Alma, another active volunteer, "with an authentically romantic evening of fine dining and dancing. It is even more fun when you know that every penny is donated to worthwhile causes."



Nash has made it a practice each year of contributing an exquisite piece of diamond jewelry that is raffled during the dance.

Last year's winner, Esta, stopped by his shop near the harbor with Art Stark and Alma, to show off her stunning prize valued at \$4,100 and get a gander at this year's ring, a tiara pattern independently appraised at \$3, 200. Etta ended up leaving with a lovely pair of diamond earrings to complement it. "It is such an attractive and unique design," she reports, "I get comments on it all the time!"

The Sweetheart's dinner dance begins at 7:00 PM in the ballroom lobby of the Radisson Resort, Casino & Spa with an open bar cocktail

hour followed by a 3-course dinner dance including wine. Lively local band NBO will be performing; guaranteed to pack the dance floor.

Tickets for the dance are \$90 or 150 Aruban florins per person.

Raffle tickets for the ring and another raffle awarding scores of great prizes such as dinners for two, car rentals and island excursions, generously donated by local vendors, are also only \$20. Dance and raffle tickets can be purchased by contacting Art or Alma at telephone numbers 567-4107 or 586-3273.

So reserve the start or end of your vacation on Aruba for a wonderful evening of fun and fundraising for a good cause with the Friends of the Handicapped! □



Art for Haiti Makes a Thirty-Eight Thousand Florin Donation to the Red Cross



Continued from Page B1

Gratitude was sent to SAN a local organization with Haitian roots who delivered a dramatic dance and music presentation with Takai and Friends, interpreting

the effects of the disaster. Musical combo E Motivo, who gave a musical rendition of Lend A Hand, a touching song with lyrics by Yolanda & Ruben Croes, asking for brotherly assistance,

was also mentioned for its positive impact. Croes also thanked auctioneer Kenneth Faustin and emcee Rona Coster for facilitating a most enjoyable evening televised by local

TV over delicious cheeses and wines. The Red Cross representatives were also surprised by the Women's Club of Aruba who took advantage of the congenial

gathering to also present their club's donation, as well as an individual donation from a private member. Pictured here the Red Cross Aruba receives donations, at the Westin Art Gallery

Associates donate cash and a total of 75 boxes of goods for Haiti

PALM BEACH - On February 10th, the Westin Resort, Aruba donated 75 boxes filled with donated clothes, blankets, pillowcases and canned food to the Red Cross. Since January 12th, the Red Cross Aruba has been involved in a massive fund raising effort which included a six-hour Telethon for Haiti, to raise funds in response to the devastation caused by the tragic earthquake.

For the last couple of weeks the Westin Resort took the initiative to start a collection for the victims in Haiti. The associates were encouraged to bring

donations of clothing and canned food to the hotel. The Human Resources and Housekeeping departments selected and organized all received goods into categories so it would be easy to distribute by the Red Cross. Another way the Westin associates can contribute is by donating vacation day(s).

The cash value of these days is also going towards the Red Cross.

The Red Cross showed there appreciation for the grant donations and personally thanked the Human Resource team, housekeeping team and all associates for there effort

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Agreement in principle on Philipsburg Accord



Continued from Page B1

The present Emily de Jongh-Elhage Cabinet had indicated its successor should have only five ministers and no state secretaries because the new government would be in office for just seven months, tasked primarily with completing the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles.

However, the size of the cabinet may become a sticking point if state secretaries are removed, because the Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire parties have one seat each and hold state secretary posts in the present coalition.

Another consideration is word from Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan of the National Alliance (NA) that his party, as the second largest coalition partner, possibly will seek two ministers.

While Duncan has not indicated the other post the party may want, there is talk that this may be finance, a crucial portfolio in the build-up to country St. Maarten because the funds generated by the island and forwarded to the Central Government now have to revert to the island along with Central Government tasks.

NA leader Commissioner William Marlin has been mum on what his party, with three seats, is bargaining for. He declined to comment on the process in general earlier this week, saying, "I don't negotiate in the press."

PAR, as the main coalition partner with six seats, is expected to retain the Prime Minister's post, with the new cabinet possibly termed the Emily de Jongh-Elhage II Cabinet.

Representatives of the six parties, including De Jongh-Elhage, have agreed not to make any comment to the press as the negotiations continue, leaving the talking up to Formateur Atacho.

Whether the Philipsburg Accord will move from "in principle" to concrete by Saturday, when this round of meetings wraps up, is not clear, because there may be hurdles to cross concerning allotment of ministers and division of portfolios. "It is difficult to say what will happen from here," Atacho told this newspaper.

Together the six parties have 14 of the 22 seats in the Antillean Parliament. This is to be the last Central Government before the Antilles is dismantled and new countries within the kingdom St. Maarten and Curaçao, and the Dutch public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands) emerge.

St. Maarten has played a key role in the dismantling of the Antilles, as this stemmed from its 2000 referendum in which its people voted to become a country within the Dutch Kingdom. This was followed by a series of referenda on the other islands that have driven the dismantling to where it is today, with 10-10-10 as the expiration date for the Antilles and the birthday of the new countries and public entities in the kingdom.

PHILIPSBURG--Six political parties of the Netherlands Antilles reached an agreement "in principle" Wednesday on forming the next and last Central Government and on a governing accord built around an agreement of termination as instructed by Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Frits Goedgedrag.

The governing accord has been dubbed the "Philipsburg Accord," said Formateur Pedro Atacho. He said the parties partnered in the present coalition already had had "constructive and very positive discussions" in Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall.

Negotiating are PAR and PNP of Curaçao, National Alliance (St. Maarten), UPB (Bonaire), Democratic Party of St. Eustatius and Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) of Saba.

Atacho told The Daily Herald there was agreement in principle on the governing accord because the allocation of ministers in the new cabinet and the division of portfolios are still to be discussed.

The size of the cabinet is first on the agenda when the talks resume today at 9:00am. Division of portfolios will be discussed today as well should there be enough time after agreement is reached on the number of ministers.

Atacho has to report to Goedgedrag on Wednesday, March 3 with a firm decision on the number of ministers and division of portfolios. The new cabinet will take office at the end of March together with the new Parliament.

The present Emily de Jongh-Elhage Cabinet had indicated its successor should have only five ministers and no state secretaries because the new government would be in office for just seven months, tasked primarily with completing the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles.

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CILO launches Mediterranean Night



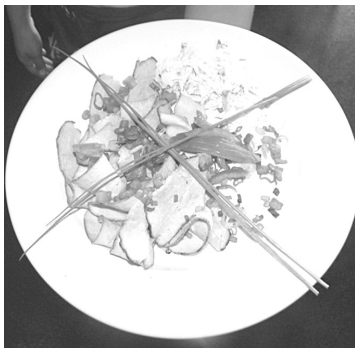
ORANJESTAD - CILO, the popular marina-view City Lounge in downtown Oranjestad, has a great event coming up: a Mediterranean night. On Saturday, February 20, buffet stations with French, Italian, Spanish and Greek food will be set up, each with

distinct traditional fare, for guests to enjoy. Wines from these Mediterranean countries are poured either by the glass or the bottle and guitar music à la Gipsy Kings and John Mayer is played. A live band called Fusion is performing from 9 to 12 pm. The buffet

starts at 7. The Spanish station is featuring paella, gazpacho and poached salmon with onions and bell peppers, while the French station offers sauerkraut with a mustard wine sauce, French bread with garlic butter and a duck breast salad. Greece displays its Greek salad with feta cheese, olives, tomatoes, onions and cucumber, moussaka, a meatloaf dish, and tzaziki.

Italy is showcasing its tagliatella pasta with a cream herb sauce and shrimps, sea bass, a tapenade and marinated olives.

The wines that have been selected for the Mediterranean extravaganza are a Marques de Riscal Rioja (Spain), a Calvet Chablis (France), a Boutari Santorini, dry white wine from Greece and a Mezzacorona Rosato (Italy). So come and sample the fabulous fare from four Mediterranean countries, each well-known for its exquisite cuisine. CILO is ready for you! □



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HUMAN HINTS

The Uncertainty Principle And You - Theory

We have discussed how three dimensional matter is made up of packets of energy, and how these packets of energy change, depending on how we look at them. We have said that we can use our thoughts and emotions to observe matter (the three dimensional hologram) the way we want it to be, so the physical world must reflect our attitudes about it.

Today I'll introduce you to the Heisenberg Uncertainty

Principle. Tomorrow, we will explore how we might be able to use this knowledge to improve our lives.

The little concentrations of energy we know as subatomic particles express themselves differently, depending on the method we use to look at them, depending on our perspective. We can never know what a packet of energy is like when we don't observe it, since our observation of it changes it

into something else, in real time. The instant we look at a packet of energy, it changes into what we expect to see, based on our attitudes. We define our lives through our attitudes.

Science had discovered something that expresses itself in accordance with what the observer expects to see. Such an abstract concept has no place in Modern Science. Theory must be proven by repeatable experiment. They got the repeatable experiment when the energy packet continued to show the observer what they expected to see, but they were stumped as to what bizarre theory could possibly explain the laboratory proof.

This is where Heisenberg came in, and kind of cleared things up with his Uncertainty Principle. If you need to use a Principle of Uncertainty to clear things up, you're pretty confused. Why Science refuses to consider consciousness expressing through matter is beyond me. It would certainly answer many of their most pressing dilemmas. Perhaps there is

a consciousness inside this piece of energy. If Science defined Life as consciousness expressing through energy, all things would be quite different.

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle says that the more accurately the position of a particle is known, the less accurately the momentum of the particle is known, and vice-versa. The accuracy of these two properties measured at the same time is limited.

Lets use a rough example. When we're in an airplane, we know exactly where we're going (momentum), but we don't know exactly where we are (position), "Somewhere over the United States" or "Somewhere over the Atlantic", or wherever. We can approximate the general geographic area based on the length of the flight, but we're only accurate within a few hundred miles. When you arrive at the airport, you know exactly where you are, but your momentum is slowed, there is more resistance with every move, your direction and speed

change often. There are elevators, foot traffic, lines, stop lights, turns, loops, etc. Your momentum hits resistance everywhere and becomes blurred, but you know exactly where you are in any moment.

Tomorrow, we'll explore how to use this knowledge in our own lives to make better decisions that lead us to the future we desire.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona on Friday Night



ORANJESTAD - Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

Our Flamenco Show will be extended this Holiday Season with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Friday night. This is a show that shouldn't be missed.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.**

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata



Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

THE MUST-SEE SHOW - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK, Adam Steinfeld: 'MAGIC LIVE!', from Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Orlando, Miami Beach, Biloxi, Boston, San Juan, New York, Aruba to Vegas, it's the coolest show in town, taking up where Houdini left off." **MAGIC-GRANDILLUSION - COMEDY**



IF YOU GO

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Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

Don't Miss Arabian Night this Saturday with a mix of different authentic Mediterranean dishes from Greece and Tunisia at Casa Tua Barcelona in Downtown Oranjestad

Casa Tua Méditerranée Debuts its food and dance



PALM BEACH – In preparation for the upcoming opening of Casa Tua Méditerranée, at the Palm Beach Plaza, owner Victor Nataf in collaboration with his food savvy sons, Gregory and Daveed, invited some friends and acquaintances for a spectacular food tasting. The restaurant's professional kitchen crew worked tirelessly to present rich and varied mezethes, a selection of Greek, Spanish and Arab appetizers followed by a to-live-for gigantic Couscous. Lucky guests invited to the fiesta sampled both the Greek and Arab versions of Baba Ghanoush,



Tzaziki, Hummus, Tabouleh, Mussels Marinara, and mini skewers of marinated Lamb morsels, all escorted by freshly baked pita bread, then they feasted over tradition steamed-fluffy couscous heaped with stewed mutton, meat balls, vegetables such as cabbage, zucchini, carrots, potatoes, a creamy Okra stew, and extra harissa sauce on the side. The free flowing red wine flamed party-goers' passion for Oriental Dancing led by three beautiful veiled artists in fitted tops decorated with fringes, beads and coins, wearing equally fitted hip belts with more fringe, beads and coins over colorful harem pants. The team of belly dancers trained to entertain diners at Casa Tua Méditerranée bewitched guests into shimmying all night, vibrating and



swinging, as if they were all born in the Middle East! Casa Tua Méditerranée will offer that fun party ambiance, says Nataf, for people who love to live, and love to eat! □

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Many restaurants claim to have the best ribs in the land, but only Tony Roma's world famous ribs continue to rack up taste awards from a variety of cities, regions, and countries across the globe. Tony Roma's Palm Beach brings this classic to Aruba.

Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

Today, there are more than 240 locations on five continents. From Seattle to Miami, Tokyo to Madrid, and Calgary to Aruba, Tony Roma's is creating an international incident with its flame-grilled fare. Discover why Tony Roma's is now an island dining institution!

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Bow Tie Pasta with Chicken in Scampi Sauce.....	\$12
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Chicken Stack with Pasta Alfredo.....	\$14
Full Slab Original Baby Back Ribs.....	\$15
Jamaican Grilled Chicken.....	\$15

Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarlillo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

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PM Douglas cries foul on France's blacklisting

Since talks of OECD 'grey listing' hit the nation, the government of St. Kitts- Nevis has reached tax agreements with Monaco, the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Denmark, New Zealand and Liechtenstein

By VonDez Phipps

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts – RECENT actions by the French government to include St. Kitts-Nevis on its blacklist of “uncooperative tax havens” have been described by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas as a “premature” and “out of turn” decision.

A decree issued by the government of France earlier this week identified 18 countries located outside of the European Union as “uncooperative” as it relates to the signing of Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs).

Caribbean countries on that list include Anguilla, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

As part of the blacklisting, the government of France will be imposing greater taxes on all domestic companies that have operations in those 18 territories.

Taxes in some areas are expected to see a jump from 15 to 50 per cent and tax exemption enjoyed by these companies will be annulled.

The decision has threatened the region's financial sector and it has not been well-received by PM Douglas.

“We think that France has acted out of turn and it has acted prematurely against the commitment that was made with the OECD countries that March would have been the deadline for any punitive action to be taken,” Douglas said in his February instalment of monthly press conferences yesterday (Feb. 17).

The Federation was similarly placed on a grey list of “secretive tax havens” by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

but was given until March 2010 to sign a minimum of 12 TIEAs to make its way onto the white list – a goal the PM said was certainly achievable.

“We are very confident that with the pace that we have been signing on these agreements and treaties, definitely, the deadline would have been met by this country and so there would not have been any need for the OECD to blacklist St. Kitts and Nevis.

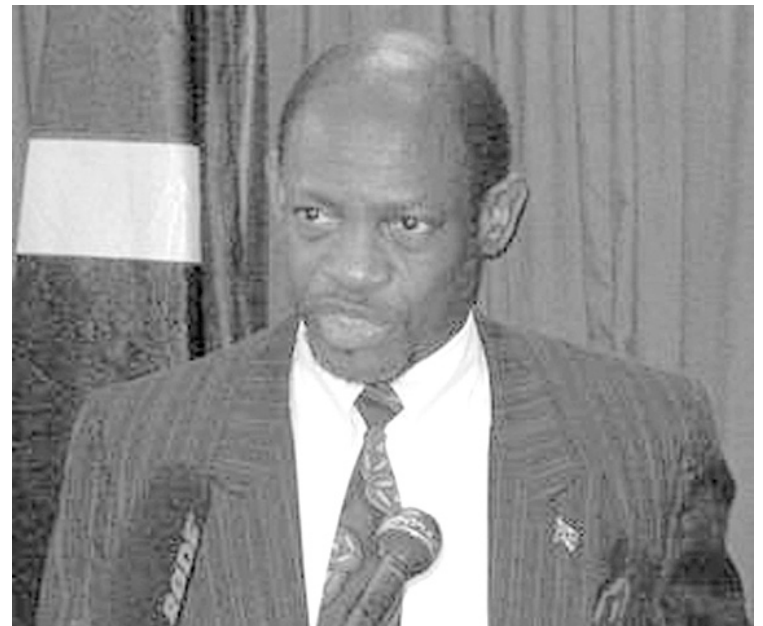
“And that is why it is strange that France alone, of all the member countries of the OECD, acted unilaterally, prematurely and took a position which to a large extent we are still trying to analyze as to the specific reason for this action.

Since talks of OECD ‘grey listing’ hit the nation, the government of St. Kitts-Nevis has reached tax agreements with Monaco, the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Denmark, New Zealand and Liechtenstein. The nation now needs only three additional TIEAs to be signed in order to join Barbados and the USVI on the OECD's white list.

The Federation has already initialled nine other agreements with six separate Nordic countries, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia and is waiting for dates for the signing of these agreements to be given to the Federation.

Douglas said that the blacklisting, albeit a strange and premature decision, will not stop the progress made by the government, as he reassured the nation that his government would continue to work to meet the OECD deadline.

A separate statement on the issue including the way forward for the country is expected to be released shortly. □



Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas

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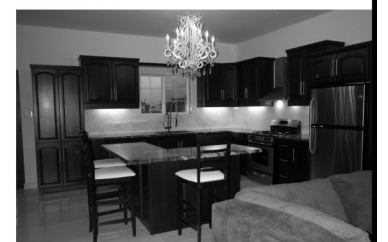
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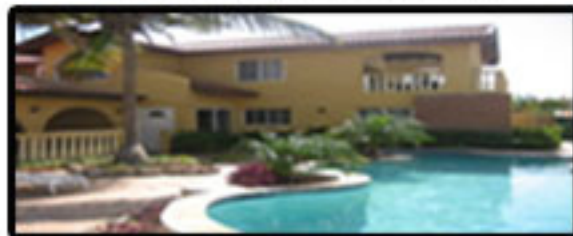
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Polémico escritor Bayly planea postular presidencia Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - El escritor y periodista Jaime Bayly dijo el miércoles que planea inscribir su candidatura presidencial en Perú para las elecciones del 2011, pese a que muchos ven con incredulidad sus intenciones aunque ya aparece en las encuestas con un 5 por ciento de intención de votos.

Bayly, quien ha lanzado propuestas que han enojado a la Iglesia Católica y militares en Perú, dijo que su postulación dependerá si goza “buena salud”, de las encuestas a su favor, del partido que lo apoya y del visto bueno de sus dos hijas.

“Veo con simpatía y con ilusión la posibilidad de inscribirme como candidato presidencial en enero del 2011”, dijo Bayly en una conferencia con la prensa extranjera. Según últimos sondeos, el alcalde de Lima, Luis Castañeda, lidera las intenciones de votos con un 22 por ciento, seguido por la hija del ex presidente Alberto Fujimori, la legisladora Keiko Fujimori, con un 21 por ciento.

En tercer lugar figura el nacionalista y la cara más visible de la oposición, Ollanta Humala, con un 13 por ciento. Para algunos analistas, la carrera electoral podría traer sorpresas porque un 81 por ciento -según las encuestas- afirma que no se siente representado por ningún partido político en Perú, con lo que elevaría las probabilidades de que aparezca y resulte victorioso un candidato independiente.

La experiencia más clara se produjo en 1990, cuando un desconocido profesor de matemática ganó la presidencia frente a los partidos tradicionales. El vencedor Fujimori fue

destituido en el 2000 tras estallar un escándalo de corrupción.

El escritor no tiene maquinaria política y tendría que presentar su candidatura con el apoyo de un partido. Un pequeño grupo independiente, Cambio Radical, inscrito en el jurado electoral, le ha ofrecido el apoyo para su postulación.

PAYASO DEL CIRCO

Bayly -autor de novelas como “No se lo digas a nadie”, “La mujer de mi hermano”, “La noche es virgen” y “El cojo y el loco”- afirmó que se considera un “liberal de izquierda” y que su modelo político es el del actual jefe del Gobierno español, el socialista José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. Pero las propuestas del escritor superan tanto la valla de los políticos de izquierda y derecha en Perú.

El novelista, que ha confesado ser bisexual, plantea que en un eventual Gobierno suyo despenalizaría el aborto, permitiría el matrimonio entre homosexuales, reduciría el número de militares y restaría “privilegios” a la Iglesia Católica.

Sus propuestas han provocado el rechazo de la Iglesia Católica, las Fuerzas Armadas y de políticos tradicionales, hecho que Bayly aprovecha para elevar la confrontación y mantener sus intenciones en boca de la prensa nacional.

Bayly dijo que su pretensión política es “una aventura”, una especie de “ludopatía compulsiva por el riesgo”, porque si gana dejaría de ganar mucho dinero como escritor, comentarista en la televisión o por la venta de guiones para el cine. □



El novelista peruano y conductor de televisión Jaime Bayly habla en una rueda de prensa en Lima, feb 17 2010. REUTERS/Mariana Bazo (PERU)

Paraguay insiste Brasil revoque refugio a acusados de secuestro

ASUNCION (Reuters) - El Gobierno paraguayó amplió el jueves los argumentos de un pedido a Brasil para que revoque el estatus de refugiados a tres de sus ciudadanos acusados de secuestro, luego de presentar documentos que los vincularían con la principal guerrilla de Colombia.

La cancillería paraguaya dijo que el Director de Asuntos Legales, Carlos Fleitas, entregó los documentos a autoridades de los ministerios de Relaciones Exteriores y Justicia de Brasil y de la Comisión Nacional de Refugiados (CONARE).

Los documentos amplían una solicitud presentada por Paraguay hace dos semanas y que afecta a Juan Arrom, Anuncio Martí y Víctor Colmán, procesados por el plagio

de la esposa de un acaudalado empresario en el 2001.

Los dos primeros fueron torturados durante la investigación del plagio por fuerzas de seguridad, por lo cual obtuvieron el refugio en Brasil, donde viven en la actualidad. La ampliación se realizó luego de que autoridades colombianas autorizaran la entrega de documentos incautados a las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) que contienen correos electrónicos entre jefes del grupo y miembros del partido Patria Libre, dirigido entonces por Arrom.

“Se ha reiterado el legítimo derecho del Paraguay de reclamar la soberanía jurídica de juzgar todos los hechos punibles perpetrados dentro del territorio paraguayó”, señaló un comunicado de la

cancillería.

Paraguay presentó un pedido de extradición de los tres procesados en el 2006, que fue rechazado por Brasil debido a que los requeridos contaban con el estatus de refugiados.

El Gobierno enfrenta una gran presión para castigar a los procesados por secuestro tras la liberación en enero de un conocido ganadero que estuvo cautivo tres meses en manos del llamado Ejército del Pueblo Paraguayo (EPP), un pequeño grupo armado que habría sido entrenado por la guerrilla colombiana.

Según autoridades paraguayas, el EPP estaría conformado por personas vinculadas a Arrom y Martí y sería responsable de otros plagios y ataques en la zona norte del país. □

Extirpan lesión a ex pdte Perú Fujimori

LIMA (Reuters) - Médicos extirparon el miércoles “con éxito” una lesión en la lengua al ex presidente peruano Alberto Fujimori, la segunda intervención en la boca en menos de dos años, a fin de realizar una evaluación de descarte de cáncer, dijeron médicos y sus familiares. La operación duró 40 minutos y médicos de un hospital especializado en enfermedades relacionadas al cáncer le extirparon hasta cuatro centímetros de lesión en la lengua. □

Colombia acusa a FARC de protagonismo electoral con rehenes

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Colombia acusó el jueves a las FARC de buscar protagonismo electoral al prolongar la liberación de dos militares secuestrados desde hace varios años por el grupo rebelde y advirtió que buscan presentar la liberación como un gesto de paz para ganar rédito político. Las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), anunciaron desde abril del 2009 la liberación del sargento Pablo Emilio Moncayo, del soldado Josué Daniel Calvo y la devolución de los restos del oficial de la policía Julián Ernesto Guevara, quien murió enfermo en cautiverio.

Pero el anuncio de los rebeldes no se concretó por la exigencia inicial del presidente Alvaro Uribe para que liberaran en forma simultánea a 24 efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas secuestrados por las FARC, que rechazaron la solicitud.

“Estos terroristas de las FARC han venido aplazando la liberación, prolongando la tortura simplemente para hacer sainete electoral. Eso es muy grave, que se quiera hacer protagonismo electoral por parte del terrorismo de las FARC con el dolor de los secuestrados”, dijo Uribe a una radio local “Ahora quieren presentar la liberación como expresión de que quieren

la paz. Ojalá eso no sea otro engaño, como en tantas ocasiones anteriores lo ha hecho ese grupo terrorista en época electoral”, precisó luego en un comunicado.

La declaración del mandatario se produjo horas antes de una reunión entre el Gobierno, la Cruz Roja Internacional, la Iglesia Católica, miembros de la embajada de Brasil en Colombia y la senadora del Partido Liberal Piedad Córdoba para definir detalles de la entrega de los rehenes.

Las FARC buscan intercambiar a los efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas secuestrados por cientos de guerrilleros encarcelados a través de un acuerdo humanitario con el Gobierno.

Desde un principio el Gobierno denunció que con las entregas graduales la guerrilla busca ganar espacio político en las elecciones de este año y limpiar su imagen ante el mundo.

Uribe suavizó su posición y autorizó a Córdoba, a la Iglesia Católica y a la Cruz Roja Internacional para conformar una misión humanitaria que reciba a los dos rehenes militares y los restos de Guevara. El suboficial Moncayo, secuestrado por las FARC hace más de 12 años, es uno de los rehenes más antiguos del conflicto



Imagen de archivo del secuestrado sargento colombiano Pablo Emilio Moncayo, en visto en un video en Bogotá. Sep 24 2009. Colombia acusó el jueves a las FARC de buscar protagonismo electoral al prolongar la liberación de dos militares secuestrados desde hace varios años por el grupo rebelde y advirtió que buscan presentar la liberación como un gesto de paz para ganar rédito político. REUTERS/El Tiempo/Alberto Urrego/archivo

interno de más de 45 años que se registra en Colombia, y ganó protagonismo a nivel internacional por las caminatas de su padre, el profesor Gustavo Moncayo, para exigir su liberación.

Brasil fue aceptado por el Gobierno colombiano y las FARC como

garante, como sucedió en febrero del 2009 cuando la guerrilla entregó a cuatro efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas y a dos dirigentes políticos secuestrados. Brasil prestará los helicópteros y las tripulaciones que se internarán en la selva para recibir a los dos rehenes. □

Venezuela: RCTV luchará para reanudar transmisiones

CARACAS (AP) - La directiva de Radio Caracas Televisión Internacional, un canal crítico del gobierno del presidente Hugo Chávez, afirmó el miércoles que seguirá luchando para reanudar en Venezuela las transmisiones por cable suspendidas por disposición del Ejecutivo. “Seguimos en nuestra lucha para que nos sea devuelta la señal que nos fue arrebatada indebidamente, con la seguridad plena de que pronto estaremos otra vez en las casas de los venezolanos”, dijo RCTV en un comunicado. El anuncio coincide con una reciente ratificación de la medida por parte del director de la Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones, Diosdado Cabello, que sostiene que RCTV incumplió una providencia que la obligaba a transmitir las cadenas informativas del gobierno, incluyendo los discursos de Chávez.

Los operadores de cable y satélite en Venezuela suspendieron en diciembre la señal de RCTV. El retiro de RCTV en la televisión por cable y satélite generó protestas callejeras estudiantiles en las

mayores ciudades del país.

Conatel aprobó el 22 de diciembre una normativa que cataloga como “productor nacional audiovisual” a cualquier televisora por suscripción que no alcance 70% de producción internacional.

La providencia prevé que los productores nacionales que operan por televisión por cable están ahora obligados a cumplir las regulaciones que antes sólo estaban obligados a cumplir los canales de señal abierta, además de otras diseñadas para la televisión por suscripción, incluida una que limita la publicidad sólo entre el final y comienzo de cada programa.

RCTV considera que la nueva normativa fue hecha a la medida “para tratar de justificar el cierre de RCTV Internacional”, agregó el escrito. RCTV cesó sus transmisiones en señal abierta el 27 de mayo de 2007 cuando el gobierno de Chávez decidió no renovar su frecuencia de operaciones, alegando que el canal apoyó el fallido golpe del 2002. La televisora pasó a operar por cable a mediados del 2007. □

Colombia apoya reelección Insulza

BOGOTA (AP) - El canciller Jaime Bermúdez expresó el respaldo de Colombia a la reelección de José Miguel Insulza al frente de la secretaría general de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA).

“Estamos acompañando a Chile en el propósito de que el secretario general prosiga en un nuevo período... en este momento no hay ningún otro candidato”, dijo Bermúdez en una entrevista divulgada el miércoles por la noche por el telenoticiario RCN.

El chileno Insulza ha expresado su confianza en la reelección por un segundo período de seis años al frente de la OEA. El actual secretario general es el único candidato para la elección prevista para el 24 de marzo. □



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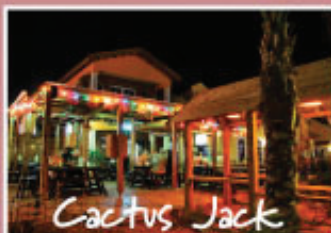


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Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music. Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach.
Open from 7:00 am - 11:00 pm
Bar open from 10:00 am - 01:00 am
www.moombabeach.com



Café the Plaza

Café the Plaza (at Renaissance Marketplace, Downtown)
International Cuisine
Phone: 583-8826
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live music. A Dutch style restaurant with moderate prices
Open from 10:00 am - 01:00 am
7 days a week
www.cafetheplaza.com



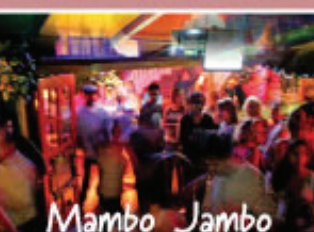
Sopranos Piano Bar

Sopranos Piano Bar (at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
Bar with Live Entertainment
Phone: 586-8622
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along!
Open from 5:00 pm - 01:00 am
7 days a week
www.sopranospianobar.com



Chino Latino

Chino Latino (at the Village across Radisson - Palm Beach)
Asian & Latin Cuisine
"where food means fun"
Phone: 586-6380
Dinner and after dinner snacks DJ's - bands - dancing
Restaurant & Bar open from 5:00 pm - 2:00 am
7 days a week
www.chinolatinoaruba.com



Mambo Jambo

Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill (Royal Plaza Downtown)
International & Latin Cuisine
Phone: 583-3632
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week.
Restaurant open from 11:00 am - 09:00 pm, Bar open from 11:00 am - 04:00 am
www.mambojamboaruba.com



Hadicurari

Hadicurari Restaurant (between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)
International & Seafood Cuisine
Phone: 586-2288
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 'Seafood with a view'
Restaurant open from 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
7 days a week
www.hadicurari.com



www.arubawineanddine.com

